

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

Scott Press Release

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SCOTT & RICHARDVILLE SUPPORT HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

Lawmakers Kick Off Bi-partisan Effort to End Homelessness

(LANSING) - State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) and State Representative Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) will co-host a press conference on Tuesday, November 9, at noon in Room 405 at the State Capitol, to highlight statewide events planned for Homeless Awareness Week. The seven-day observation is November 14-20.

This year's theme is "Bright Ideas to End Homelessness." Service providers throughout the state will incorporate the theme in their own awareness activities to gain local support and resources.

"The homeless problem in Michigan cuts across the whole state and it is going to take the combined efforts of many concerned citizens to respond to this crisis and care for our most vulnerable people," said Senator Scott. "That is why our state senators and representatives have joined together and have resolved to do their part in ending homelessness in Michigan."

Both Sen. Scott and Rep. Richardville introduced Resolutions in their respective chambers to recognize Homeless Awareness Week. They gained the support of several of their colleagues who co-sponsored the Resolutions.

Service providers will be on hand at the press conference to discuss the needs and challenges of the homeless in their communities. Paul Elam, Chairman of the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, will also be in attendance to answer questions relating to the statewide problem.

“It is estimated that on any given night there are nearly 40,000 people seeking shelter or in need of a permanent address,” Rep. Richardville said. “With children particularly hardest hit by the causes of homelessness, we cannot simply continue to ignore this very real social calamity.”

In reaction to the growing homelessness issue in Michigan, Governor Jennifer Granholm convened the Michigan Leadership Policy Academy for Homeless Families and Children. Sen. Scott serves as a member of this non-partisan policy group.

The policy academy will develop a comprehensive plan to end homelessness in Michigan. Members will meet during Homeless Awareness Week to review and discuss the collaborative process.

The group will also suggest necessary policy changes in various state agencies and recommend any funding needs.

For more information about the homeless in Michigan, visit the website of the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness at, www.mihomeless.org. The site includes information on local homeless helping organizations and a list of Homeless Awareness Week activities.

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